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General Assembly
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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 22 June 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is regrettable that I am writing this letter to you less than 48 hours after Israeli occupying forces launched a deadly air strike against a civilian area in the Gaza Strip, brutally killing three children who were playing outside their home. The letter I write today is to inform you of yet another deadly attack caused by the reckless, wanton acts committed by the Israeli occupying forces. In this regard, two more Palestinian civilians were killed and 14 others, all members of the same family, were wounded in an Israeli air strike in the southern Gaza Strip that took place yesterday evening as the family sat down for their evening meal. Fatima El-Barbawi, who was seven months pregnant, and her brother, Zakariya Ahmed, a doctor residing in Saudi Arabia, were killed instantly. Doctors attempted to save the woman's seven-month-old foetus, but failed. Moreover, some of the civilians wounded, included three children, remain in critical condition.

The continuation by the occupying Power of grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including acts constituting war crimes and State terrorism, against the Palestinian civilian population, has been the cause of the mounting death toll suffered by the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. In this connection, this attack represents the third deadly one in which scores of civilians have been killed in targeted, deliberate air strikes. Fifty-one civilians have been killed in this month alone, including children and women. It is evident that no Palestinian life, including even the seven-month foetus mentioned above, is safe from the reckless and lethal military attacks committed by Israel, the occupying Power.

The international community, including the Security Council, whose primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security, must act to bring a halt to these military attacks against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population and must not allow this situation to continue and to further spiral downward. More innocent Palestinian lives will be lost and more families will mourn for their loved ones if the occupying Power continues to act with complete

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impunity. In this regard, we reiterate our call for an international impartial investigation, as requested by several groups at the United Nations, into the 9 June beach attack as well as into the latest killing of Palestinian civilians. Israel must stop these crimes immediately and be held accountable for violations under international law, and must be compelled to scrupulously comply with its obligations under international law, including as an occupying Power under international humanitarian law.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 247 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 21 June 2006 (A/ES-10/339-S/2006/427), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my deep regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you, two more Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,928. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex

Annex to the identical letters dated 22 June 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

(Wednesday, 21 June 2006)

1. Fatima El-Barbawi
2. Zakariya Ahmed

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,928

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 28 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, has today launched a major air and ground military assault on the Gaza Strip, threatening the lives of the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in the area and causing the further deterioration and destabilization of the grave situation on the ground, which could have far-reaching impacts in terms of the stability of the region and thus on international peace and security.

After deploying thousands of troops in recent days along the southern border of the Gaza Strip, following the capture of an Israeli soldier on 25 June from a military outpost of the occupying forces on the Gaza border, the occupying Power has begun firing missiles at targets in Gaza from its warplanes and has been launching artillery from tanks on the ground that have pushed several kilometres into southern Gaza along with dozens of armoured vehicles and bulldozers. Collectively punishing and terrorizing the Palestinian civilian population, Israel, the occupying Power, has already caused the destruction of Gaza's only power station by air missile strike, cutting off electricity to the majority of the more than 1.3 million Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and cutting off water supplies to the civilian population as well, and has also bombed at least three bridges and a gasoline reservoir in the area. These attacks on the civilian infrastructure, in addition to the constant barrage of sonic booms by low-flying warplanes over civilian neighbourhoods and the closure of all border crossings into and out of Gaza, are deepening the humanitarian suffering of the Palestinian people and causing extensive physical and environmental destruction on the ground with far-reaching detrimental consequences for the population.

The escalation of violence by the occupying Power and the incessant incitement by Israeli officials, including declarations of "immunity for no one", threats to assassinate Palestinian officials, and vows by the Israeli Prime Minister to

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take "extreme action", have generated widespread fear and panic among the Palestinian civilian population, causing hundreds of people to flee their homes, particularly in the Rafah area of the Gaza Strip, in search of safety. Clearly, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, already devastating, is being further exacerbated by the continuous bloodshed, destruction, crimes and terror being committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population, which is now being intensified under the pretext of pressuring the Palestinians that have captured the Israeli soldier to release him. In that regard, it should be highlighted that, even prior to the capture of the soldier of the occupying forces, Israeli officials had been issuing a series of threats regarding the intention to launch a major invasion of the Gaza Strip.

Further in that regard, it must be clearly stated that the Palestinian leadership, including President Mahmoud Abbas himself, has called for the captive Israeli soldier to be treated in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law and has called for his safety. The Palestinian leadership has urged a diplomatic solution to the problem and has been exerting all efforts to that end, which are being undermined by this latest Israeli military aggression, underscoring the fact that Israel, the occupying Power, seeks only to address this issue and all other issues regarding the Occupied Palestinian Territory by exercising its military might and oppression against the Palestinian people held captive under its occupation as well as against their leadership.

The international community must exert urgent efforts to bring a halt to the Israeli military invasion of Gaza and a halt to the collective punishment and crimes being committed against the Palestinian people by the occupying Power with sheer impunity. In this regard, the Security Council, in upholding its main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, should take the necessary measures and should condemn the aggression and demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease its attacks, withdraw its occupying forces and abide by its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in all of its actions vis-à-vis the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation. Further in this regard, it must once more be reiterated that the defenceless Palestinian civilians under Israel's belligerent occupation are entitled under international law — just like all other civilians in situations of armed conflict — to protection, and measures should accordingly be taken to provide them with safety and security.

If action is not taken to address the current grave developments, the situation on the ground will only further destabilize, perpetuating the cycle of violence reignited by the occupying Power, worsening humanitarian conditions and civilian suffering in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and severely undermining ongoing Palestinian efforts to promote calm, stability and unity as well as the efforts of the international community, including the Quartet, to bring about a resumption of negotiations and to restart the peace process. We thus reiterate our appeal to the international community for urgent action to address the present crisis.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 248 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 June 2006 (A/ES-10/340-S/2006/432), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the

Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady-**Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 29 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, is continuing and widening its destructive military campaign against the Palestinian people and their leadership in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The occupying Power continues to commit flagrant violations and grave breaches of international law as it continues to carry out violent military assaults against the civilian population, against civilian property and infrastructure and against the Palestinian Authority itself.

Overnight, the Israeli occupying forces raided several cities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, kidnapping and detaining at least 64 Palestinians, the majority of them high-ranking, democratically elected officials, including at least nine Ministers of the Palestinian Authority Cabinet, 24 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and several mayors from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Among the Cabinet Ministers being held by the occupying Power are the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education as well as the Ministers of Finance, Planning, Local Government, Prisoner Affairs, Social Affairs, Labor, Religious Affairs and Jerusalem Affairs. The detention of these democratically-elected officials, in addition to the continued imprisonment of more than 9,000 other Palestinians in Israeli jails, constitutes a blatant violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. Moreover, the direct targeting by Israel, the occupying Power, of senior Palestinian officials in such an operation is a clear indication of Israel's malicious intent not only to sabotage the recent progress made in terms of the Palestinian national dialogue and to severely undermine the functioning of the Palestinian Authority but also to ultimately cause the collapse of the Authority as a whole.

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In addition to these unlawful kidnappings and detentions, the occupying Power has continued to expand its military campaign in the Gaza Strip, now amassing troops along the northern border of Gaza and threatening to invade towns and refugee camps in the north. The occupying forces have also continued carrying out missile air strikes and tank artillery bombardments and warplanes to emit sonic booms over the densely populated civilian neighbourhoods throughout Gaza, terrorizing the civilian population, and have continued to cause wanton destruction to civilian property and infrastructure, including the bulldozing of agricultural lands, the bombing of a soccer field at the Islamic University of Gaza and the bombing of roads and water pipelines. The Palestinian civilian population in the already devastated and impoverished Gaza Strip is now under complete siege as a result of Israel's closure of all border crossings, and the majority of people are being deprived of electricity and clean water, including in hospitals, and food and medical shortages are intensifying, exacerbating the dire humanitarian crisis and hardships being endured, especially by children and the elderly.

The international community cannot remain passive as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit such widespread and systematic human rights violations, war crimes and State terror against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation, in grave breach of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. Such breaches and the resultant dramatic deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, surely demand the attention of and action by the international community, including, in particular, the Security Council of the United Nations. The Security Council must uphold its responsibilities, including its primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, which is clearly in jeopardy in the region, and, moreover, the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention must uphold their obligations to respect and to ensure respect of the Convention in all circumstances.

The illegal practices and actions being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people and their leadership should be strongly condemned and Israel should be demanded to scrupulously abide by its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. In this regard, serious efforts must be undertaken to compel Israel to immediately cease its campaign of aggression in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including, inter alia, the immediate cessation of military attacks against the Palestinian civilian population, the cessation of the destruction of civilian properties and infrastructure and the release of all of the democratically-elected Palestinian officials it has detained. Only such concerted and urgent action by the international community can stem the dangerous downward spiral of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and avert the further escalation of this grave crisis.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 249 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 28 June 2006 (A/ES-10/341-S/2006/443), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 3 July 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues with its aggression of military raids and assaults on Palestinian cities and towns in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, endangering the lives of the defenceless Palestinian civilian population and causing further destruction to Palestinian property and infrastructure, in flagrant violation and grave breach of the relevant rules and provisions of international law.

Recent statements and declarations by Israeli officials indicate the occupying Power's intention to continue and escalate this violent military and terror campaign against the Palestinian people and their leadership. In addition, the occupying Power continues to detain those elected Palestinian officials it kidnapped last week, severely undermining the functioning of the Palestinian Authority and exacerbating already high tensions. Such ongoing attacks by Israel, in addition to its incessant provocations and incitement, portend the continued steep decline of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and the perpetuation of the deadly cycle of violence reignited by the occupying Power, with undoubtedly dire consequences for the very fragile security situation and the grave humanitarian conditions on the ground.

In this regard, I regret to inform you that the Israeli occupying forces have continued to attack areas in the Gaza Strip by missile air strikes launched from warplanes and helicopter gunships as well as by artillery bombardment launched from tanks and gunboats, causing further destruction to properties and infrastructure, including a school and several main roads. Yesterday, the occupying forces also continued their targeting of elected Palestinian officials and government institutions, striking the offices of the Palestinian Prime Minister, Mr. Ismail Haniyeh, in Gaza City with missiles and causing severe damage to the building. Air strikes were also carried out in other areas, including in Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, resulting in the killing of at least two Palestinian men and the wounding of several other Palestinians, including a man inside his own home in Beit Hanoun. Israeli troops remain in the

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southern Gaza Strip as well as along the northern Gaza border and actually crossed into northern Gaza today with tanks and bulldozers, threatening to widen the military campaign and causing rising fears, trauma and panic among the Palestinian civilian population in the area.

Despite all such violent and unlawful Israeli actions, the Palestinian leadership continues to exert efforts to diplomatically address the prevailing crisis and to promote calm, with absolutely no reciprocation by the occupying Power. In this regard, it must be clearly reiterated that there is no military solution to this crisis and that the continuing military assaults by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people and their leadership will only further exacerbate the situation, gravely endanger civilian lives and cause even more humanitarian suffering, destruction and loss. Additionally, the persistence of illegal and irrational actions by the occupying Power, including the ongoing threats being declared by Israeli officials, the latest by the Defense Minister himself, against the Syrian Arab Republic following Israel's violation of Syrian airspace last week, are causing the greater destabilization of the situation in the area and threaten the security of the entire region.

The international community must continue to exert efforts to address this critical situation, aimed at averting its further deterioration, in order to save the lives of innocent and defenceless civilians and to save the two sides, as well as the region as a whole, from plunging into an irrevocable cycle of violence. The international community, including the Security Council of the United Nations, cannot abandon its responsibilities in the face of this rising threat to the already too fragile, tense and instable security situation in the Middle East. In this regard, we reiterate that Israel's aggression and illegal practices against the Palestinian people and their leadership should be strongly condemned and that Israel should be demanded to abide by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. Serious efforts should be undertaken to compel the occupying Power to immediately cease its aggressions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including, inter alia, the immediate cessation of military attacks against the Palestinian civilian population, cessation of the destruction of properties, withdrawal of its forces to outside the Gaza Strip and release of all of the Palestinian officials it has detained, and to give diplomacy a chance to defuse the current crisis.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 250 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 29 June 2006 (A/ES-10/342-S/2006/460), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, has further escalated its military aggression against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, causing extensive loss of human life and vast destruction of property, in grave breach of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilians Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. At least 21 Palestinians, including children, have been brutally killed by the military forces of the occupying Power and more than 60 other Palestinians, including at least 15 children and 10 members of the same family, have been seriously wounded in attacks launched today in the Gaza Strip.

In the early morning hours of the day, the Israeli occupying forces moved several miles into the northern Gaza Strip, seizing large areas once occupied by Jewish settlements, reportedly for the establishment of a so-called buffer zone in the north, and also seizing positions in and around the towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. From these areas, the occupying forces continued to carry out an air and ground assault against the civilian population and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. That assault began last week and has not ceased since my last letter to you, with air strikes from warplanes and helicopter gunships and artillery fire from tanks positioned throughout the area, including between Palestinian homes in densely populated areas. This violent and lethal military campaign has caused widespread terror and trauma among the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza and has caused dozens of families, particularly in the Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun areas, to flee their homes in fear for their lives.

The attacks being carried out today by the Israeli occupying forces come on the heels of the statements made in recent days by Israeli officials showing their intent to widen and deepen the military campaign in the Gaza Strip, including statements by the Israeli Prime Minister, who has repeatedly warned that the Palestinian people and their leadership will face "far-reaching consequences".

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Indeed, these bloody attacks were preceded in recent days by a barrage of air strikes and tank fire at several targets in the Gaza Strip, including the building housing the Palestinian Ministry of Interior and a school in Gaza City, all aimed at causing deliberate destruction to Palestinian institutions and property and further fear and panic among the population.

These attacks, which have resulted in the killing of civilians and the endangerment of the lives of thousands of other civilians, including children and women, and which have caused extensive destruction of property, constitute reprisals by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population and the collective punishment of the entire population, both of which are strictly prohibited by the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Regardless of the pretexts given, it remains without a doubt that flagrant violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law as well as extensive war crimes are being blatantly committed by Israel, the occupying Power, throughout the course of this ongoing military aggression against the defenseless Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, this aggressive military and terror campaign has seriously impacted the already-dire humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and there are widespread fears that the humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people under Israel's siege could rapidly deteriorate to disastrous proportions if the campaign is not ended.

The international community cannot continue to stand idly by while the defenseless Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation continues to be subjected to this incessant barrage of military assaults and to grave humanitarian conditions and increased suffering and hardships. In light of the deteriorating situation resulting from Israel's military escalation, we are compelled to reiterate that it is incumbent upon the international community, especially the Security Council, to undertake the necessary actions to address this critical situation in order to avert its further deterioration, to save the lives of innocent and defenseless civilians and to save the two sides, as well as the region as a whole, from an irrevocable cycle of violence, instability and insecurity. The bloodshed and death caused today by the occupying Power in northern Gaza must serve as an alarm for the international community revealing what the future holds should this Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian people continue.

Accordingly, we once again reiterate that the international community should speedily condemn Israel's military aggression and illegal practices against the Palestinian people and their leadership and demand that Israel abide by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. Efforts should be undertaken to compel the occupying Power to immediately cease its aggression in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including, inter alia, the immediate cessation of military attacks against the Palestinian civilian population, the cessation of destruction, the withdrawal of its forces to outside the Gaza Strip and the release of all of the Palestinian officials it has detained. Diplomacy is the only means by which this grave crisis can be resolved.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 251 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 3 July 2006 (A/ES-10/343-S/2006/479), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian

people since September 2000. In this regard, I wish to inform you that it is our intention to forward to you the list of Palestinian martyrs killed in recent days by the Israeli occupying forces as soon as all the dead have been identified. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations